

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) Multiple layer reinforced flexible hose comprising at least one inner tubular first layer made of extruded plastic material, at least one outer tubular second layer made of extruded plastic material, a tubular reinforcement made of a textile material interposed between said first and said second layer, said first and said second layer extending over substantially the entire length of said tubular reinforcement and being homogeneously joined in correspondence of their mutual contact surface so as to define a wall having an overall predetermined thickness, an end portion of said wall having an increased thickness along a longitudinal portion of predetermined extension to thereby provide watertight sealing action with external connection organs, wherein said increased thickness is substantially constant along the whole extension of each said longitudinal portion and a non-linear, stepped increase with respect to the rest of the hose, said end portion with said increased thickness having a substantially constant outer diameter and a smooth and continuous outer surface without discontinuities over an entire length of said end portion, said stepped increase being of substantially circular shape.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 20 wherein said stepped increase has a substantially short conical shape.

23. (previously presented) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 20 wherein said increased thickness is only localized on said outer tubular layer.

24. (previously presented) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 20 wherein said increased thickness is only localized on said inner tubular layer.

25. (previously presented) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 20 wherein said increased thickness is localized on both said outer tubular second layer and said inner tubular first layer.

26. (previously presented) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 20 wherein at least one of said first and said second layer is colored with different pigmentations along different parts of its length to provide longitudinal portions of said layers with different colors.

27. (previously presented) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 26 wherein said second layer is provided with a change of coloring and pigmentation in correspondence of the stepped thickness increase to identify where the hose is to be cut.

28. (previously presented) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 20 wherein said hose comprises one or more further inner, outer or middle tubular layers, made of plastic material, having technical and/or aesthetic functions.

29. (previously presented) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 28 wherein said one or more further plastic material layers are chosen from the group comprising food compatible, anti-abrasives, UV shielding and ornamental films.

30-37. (canceled)